

Mission Today 2009

The purpose of Mission Today is to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women by:

- Energizing United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action;
- Increasing contacts between units and mission personnel and projects;
- Encouraging use of mission resources; and
- Expanding concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

Criteria for a Mission Today Unit:

- Diamond: Complete all of the following items
- Gold: Complete 13 of the following items (must include 5 starred items)
- Silver: Complete 8 of the following items (must include 4 starred items)

- *1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting to pray for mission workers and projects.
- *2. The unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission.
- *3. The unit will add at least two members to its roll.
- *4. The unit will have at least two members subscribe to *Response* magazine.
- *5. The unit will use two programs from the Program Book for United Methodist Women each year.
- *6. The unit or circle will conduct at least one mission study a year.
- *7. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least one way during the year.
Suggested plans of action:
 - > Plan a joint meeting with a unit of a different racial/ethnic background
 - > Hold a joint vacation bible school.
 - > Encourage the church to sponsor a refugee family
 - > Develop bi-racial /cultural or multi-racial /cultural Koinonia groups
8. At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the Conference School of Christian Mission.
9. At least two members (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the district or conference annual meeting.
10. The unit will have at least one person join the United Methodist Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information.
11. Members will write to five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar each year.
12. The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children in at least two ways. Possibilities for action:
 - > Help Sponsor a church or community program related to children or youth
 - > Sponsor a Children's Sabbath, promoted by Children's Defense Fund
 - > Get involved in mentoring, tutoring, or "big sister" programs
 - > Contact congressional representatives and/or others in government regarding children's issues
 - > Visit your local schools
13. The unit will be a Five Star unit, contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving.
14. Each unit or circle will include a *Response* moment where an item from the magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
15. Have at least two people from the unit complete one of the Reading Program Plans and report on one of the books read; encourage all members to complete Plan One; have a book review program.
16. Invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year.
17. Make a pledge to care for God's creation and become a "Green" Unit (get information on How to Become a Green Unit at <http://www.umwonline.org/environment>).
18. Hold a Mini- Spiritual Growth Retreat
19. The unit will participate in the Texas Conference Hands On UMCOR project.